

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
24 April 2003 (24.04.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/034173 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/30**

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/IB02/04273**

(22) International Filing Date: 17 October 2002 (17.10.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2001/8533 17 October 2001 (17.10.2001) ZA

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,

GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,  
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK,  
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

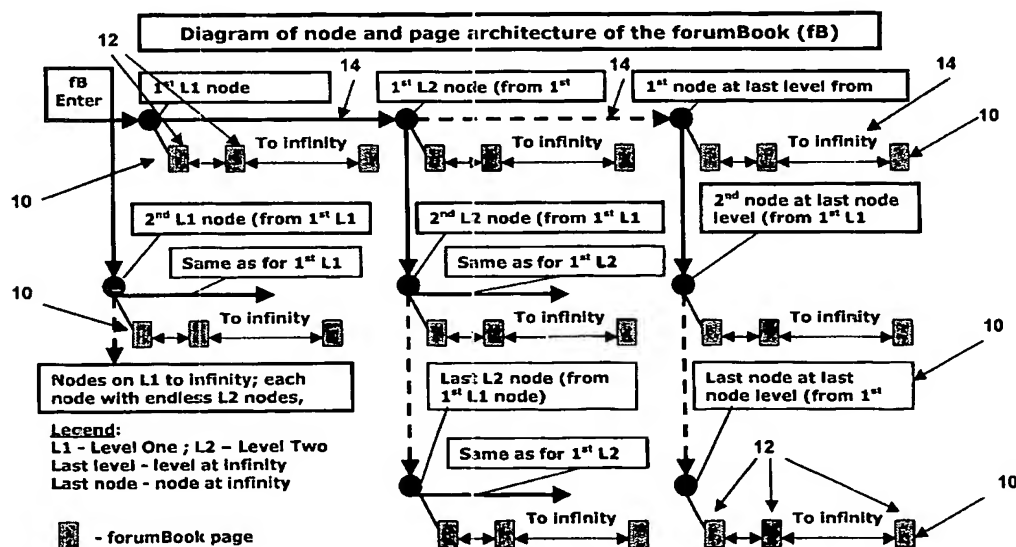
Published:

— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
4 December 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **DATA MANAGEMENT**



(57) Abstract: A database containing information relating to a particular topic includes a number of portions (10) which are each sub-divided into a number of sub-portions (12). The sub-portions (12) of each portion (10) are linked to one another in a sequential arrangement wherein each subsequent sub-portion contains further information on the topic. Selected sub-portions (12) include primary key expressions which are embedded in the information contained in the sub-portions and which are linked via a hypertext link, to other sub-portions of the database containing more information on the topic. The invention extends to a computer program product for managing the content of the database and to a method of compiling the database.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB02/04273

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**IPC(7) : G06F 17/30  
US CL : 715/516; 707/1, 100, 101

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 715/516; 707/1, 100, 101

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
WEST, CAS ONLINE**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,991,751 A (RIVETTE et al.) 23 November 1999 (23.11.1999), column 3, line 65- column 4, line 25.	1-33
Y	US 5,721,910 A (UNGER et al.) 24 February 1998 (24.02.1998), See abstract.	1-33

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 August 2003 (18.08.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

01 OCT 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Organization  
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TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

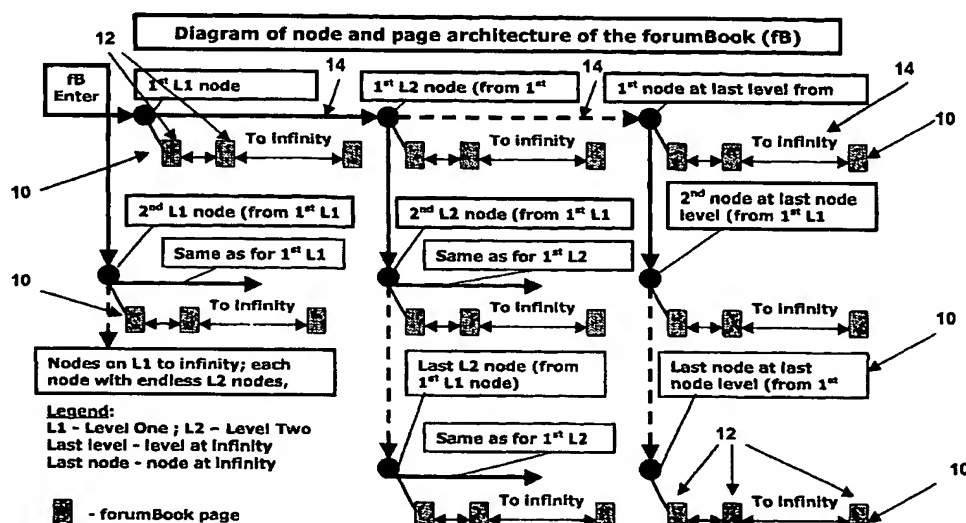
— with international search report  
— with amended claims

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
4 December 2003

Date of publication of the amended claims: 19 February 2004

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## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 1 December 2003 (01.12.03);  
original claims 1-33 replaced by amended claims 1-28 (7 pages)]

1. A database for containing information relating to a particular topic, the database including a number of portions in which information on a particular aspect of the topic can be stored, each portion being sub-divided into a number of sub-portions which are each linked to one another in a predetermined sequential arrangement wherein each subsequent sub-portion in the sequential arrangement can contain further information on the topic.
2. A database as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portions of the database are arranged into sets which are arranged in a predetermined sequential arrangement.
3. A computer program product for managing the content of a database of information relating to a particular topic, wherein the database includes a number of portions in which information on a particular aspect of the topic can be stored and which are each sub-divided into a number of sub-portions, the computer program product including program instructions for linking the sub-portions of each portion of the database, to one another in a predetermined sequential arrangement wherein each subsequent sub-portion in the sequential arrangement can contain further information on the topic.

4. A computer program product as claimed in claim 3, which includes program instructions for establishing a user-executable navigation link from at least one sub-portion of the database to another sub-portion of the database, thereby permitting a user to navigate from said one portion to said other sub-portion, the computer program product including program instructions for recording the address in the database of each sub-portion from which a navigation link is made and for returning a user to the sub-portion from which the navigation link is made, in use.
5. A computer program product as claimed in claim 4, which includes program instructions for displaying a view of the sub-portion from which the navigation link is made, to be displayed in the same format as it was displayed before the navigation link to another sub-portion was made.
6. A computer program product as claimed in claim 4, which includes program instructions for recording and displaying title information representing each sub-portion from which the navigation link is made.
7. A computer program product as claimed in claim 4, which includes program instructions for defining primary key expressions in information that is stored, in use, by a compiler in selected sub-portions of the database and for establishing said navigation link to said other sub-portion of the database by a user selecting said primary key expression.

8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 7, which includes program instructions for establishing explanatory notes in which information can be entered by a compiler and for defining secondary key expressions in information that is stored, in use, by a compiler in selected sub-portions of the database and for linking each secondary key expression to a particular associated explanatory note in an arrangement wherein the selection of a primary key expression by a user will cause the associated explanatory note to be displayed.
9. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, which includes program instructions for defining primary key expressions in said explanatory notes and for establishing said navigation link from primary key expressions in said explanatory notes, to predetermined sub-portions of the database.
10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, which includes program instructions for defining secondary key expressions in selected explanatory notes and for linking each secondary key expression to another explanatory note.
11. A computer program product as claimed in claim 10, which includes program instructions for establishing default explanatory notes in which information can be entered by a compiler, the program instructions being operable to display the default explanatory note simultaneously with the information in a particular sub-portion of the database.

12. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, which includes a feedback component including program instructions permitting any part of the information contained in a sub-portion or explanatory note of the database, to be selected by a user and for the user's selection to be recorded.
13. A computer program product as claimed in claim 8, which includes a monitoring component including program instructions for recording a user's selection of primary and secondary key expressions.
14. A computer program product as claimed in claim 4, which includes program instructions for displaying title information representing each sub-portion from which a navigation link is made so as to provide a user with a record of those sub-portions of the database from which navigation links are made.
15. An information management product which comprises:  
  
a database component for containing information relating to a particular topic, the database component including a number of portions in which information on a particular aspect of the topic can be stored, each portion being subdivided into a number of sub-portions; and  
  
a computer program component for managing the content of the database, the computer program component including program instructions for linking the sub-portions of each portion of the database to one another in a predetermined

sequential arrangement wherein each subsequent sub-portion in the sequential arrangement contains further information on the topic.

16. An information management product as claimed in claim 15, wherein the database component is equivalent to the database as claimed in one of claims 1 and 2.
17. An information management product as claimed in claim 16, wherein the computer program component is equivalent to the computer program product as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 14.
18. A method of compiling a database of information relating to a particular topic, which includes the steps of:

compiling a number of portions of the database, wherein each portion contains information on a particular aspect of the topic and wherein each portion is subdivided into a number of sub-portions; and

linking each of the sub-portions of each portion of the database to one another in a predetermined sequential arrangement wherein subsequent sub-portions in the sequential arrangement contain further information on the topic.

19. A method of compiling a database of information as claimed in claim 18, which includes establishing a user-executable navigation link from at least one sub-portion of the database to another sub-portion of the database, thereby permitting



a user to navigate from said one portion to said other sub-portion; and for recording the address in the database of each sub-portion from which a navigation link is made and for returning a user to the sub-portion from which a navigation link is made.

20. A method of compiling a database of information as claimed in claim 19, which includes displaying a view of the sub-portion from which the navigation link is made, in the same format as it was displayed before the navigation link to another sub-portion was made.
21. A new database substantially as described in the specification.
22. A database substantially as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.
23. A new computer program product substantially as described in the specification.
24. A computer program product substantially as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.
25. A new information management product substantially as described in the specification.

26. An information management product substantially as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.
27. A new method of compiling a database substantially as described in the specification.
28. A method of compiling a database substantially as described in the specification with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.